

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 OIC-02 /124 W

----- 091053

O R 251620Z MAR 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 033

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 2082

DEPARTMENT PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE

WHITE HOUSE FOR SEIDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJECT: MTN

REF: GENEVA 1476

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1. SUMMARY. ONLY TEN DELEGATIONS MADE OPENING STATEMENTS

IN ABBREVIATED FIRST MEETING OF AGRICULTURE GROUP. U.S. LED OFF WITH STATEMENT REFLECTING INITIAL POSITION OF POSITION PAPER. CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND GAVE SOME QUALIFIED SUPPORT TO U.S. PROPOSAL FOR JOINT APPROACH WITH NTM AND TARIFF GROUPS ON FUNCTIONAL ISSUE. EACH HOWEVER ADVOCATED COMMODITY SUBGROUPS. EC STATEMENT BY PIZZUTI APPEARED TO BE IMPROVISATION BASED ON COUNCIL-APPROVED MANDATE AND IN EFFECT CALLED FOR GIVING EXCLUSIVITY OF AGRICULTURE GROUP ON NEGOTIATING AGRICULTURE IN MTN. JAPAN, BRAZIL, ALGERIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND HUNGARY ALSO SPOKE. END SUMMARY

2. DISCUSSIONS BEGAN IN AGRICULTURE GROUP UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF GARDNER PATTERSON WHO PROPOSED DELEGATIONS MAKE OPENING STATEMENTS UNDER ITEMS 3 AND 2(B) OF AGENDA (REFTEL). U.S. LED OFF WITH STATEMENT (SEPTTEL). A TOTAL OF ONLY TEN DELEGATIONS SPOKE BEFORE EARLY ADJOURNMENT AS CHAIR UNABLE TO INDUCE FURTHER STATEMENTS.

3. NEW ZEALAND (EASTERBROOK-SMITH), CANADA (MINER), AND AUSTRALIA (WARWICK-SMITH) GAVE SOME TENTATIVE SUPPORT TO U.S. PROPOSALS ON JOINT APPROACH BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND TARIFF/NBT GROUPS ON FUNCTIONAL ISSUES BUT ALSO SUPPORTED FORMATION COMMODITY SUBGROUPS IN AGRICULTURE FOR MEAT AND DAIRY. AUSTRALIA AND CANADA ALSO GAVE SUPPORT TO LONDON GRAIN RESERVES TALKS, BUT WOULD SUPPORT CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAINS GROUP IN MTN. JAPAN SPOKE OF SOME LINK WITH FUNCTIONAL NEGOTIATING BODIES ON AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS PLUS SUBGROUPS FOR DAIRY AND SUGAR. BRAZIL PROPOSED CORN, RICE, AND SUGAR BE HANDLED BY TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP, AND WAS VAGUELY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. FUNCTIONAL APPROACH.

4. PIZZUTI SPOKE FOR EC AND REPEATED BASIC COMMUNITY HARD LINE FROM MANDATE APPROVED BY EC COUNCIL FEBRUARY 10. COMMODITY SUBGROUPS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS, CEREALS, MEAT (BEEF AND VEAL), SUGAR, RICE PROPOSED ALONG WITH SUBGROUPS FOR TARIFFS, STANDARDS, QRS, SUBSIDIES. EC CONCEPTS FOR COMMODITY AGREEMENTS FOR CEREALS, RICE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SUGAR OUTLINED ALONG WITH JOINT DISCIPLINES FOR OTHER COMMODITIES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO BIND SELVES TO OBSERVE CERTAIN RULES AND IMPORTERS TO MAKE OFFSETTING QTE ADJUSTMENTS END QTE. PIZZUTI IN EFFECT WAS SAYING EC PARTICIPATION IN COMMODITY AGREEMENTS HE PROPOSED CONSTITUTED THE COMMUNITY'S OFFER. PIZZUTI MADE NO REFERENCE TO LONDON GRAIN RESERVES MEETING. IN SHORT, EC OPENING LINE MEANS THEY ARE DEMANDING EXCLUSIVITY FOR

AGRICULTURE GROUP TO DEAL WITH ALL AGRICULTURAL ISSUES IN MTN. PIZZUTTI'S PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, INDICATED HE WAS IMPROVISING FROM EC MANDATE RATHER THAN GIVING PREPARED STATEMENT.

5. USDEL SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY LAST WEEK AND REPEATEDLY TODAY TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH ECDEL IN ADVANCE TODAY'S OPENING SESSION. RABOT JOINED ECDEL ABOUT FIVE P.M. FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT HE TOLD KOENIG U.S. OPENING STATEMENT INDICATED U.S. DID NOT INTEND TO NEGOTIATE IN MTN ON AGRICULTURE. ALSO SAID HE UNWILLING TO MEET AT THIS TIME WITH AMERICAN DEL.

6. MEMBERS U.S. DEL CONTINUING TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH OTHER EXPORTERS AS WELL AS NUMBER OF LDC, NORDIC AND OTHER DELS TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR JOINT WORKING PARTY APPROACH TO FUNCTIONAL ISSUES AND ASSESS DEGREE SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION.

7. WE UNABLE TO ASSESS YET FIRMNESS OF EC POSITION AND WHETHER ANY COMPROMISE POSSIBLE. IT SEEMS LIKELY EC COUNTERVAIL ISSUE IS STRONGLY INFLUENCING POSITION OF RABOT. WE BELIEVE INTRANSIGENCE OF EC AT OUTSET AGRICULTURE MEETING UNDOUBTEDLY IN PART TACTIC TO INFLUENCE RESOLUTION CHEESE ISSUE IN BRUSSELS AND WASHINGTON. UNLESS EC SHOWS SOME GIVE ON OPENING POSITION THERE WILL BE A STALEMATE AND AGRICULTURE GROUP WILL LIKELY HAVE TO RECESS AND MEET AGAIN FOLLOWING EASTER VACATION PERIOD. USDEL WILL MAKE EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF COMPROMISE POSSIBLE IN LINE WITH AUTHORIZED POSITION. IF THIS NOT POSSIBLE, DECISION WILL BE NEEDED WHETHER OR NOT STALEMATE SITUATION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED FOR TIME BEING. WE WILL APPRAISE SITUATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ADVISE OF OUR RECOMMENDATION AND WHETHER FURTHER GUIDANCE NEEDED.WOLFF

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